bility of physical facilities and financial resources. The objective of Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan is primarily to serve the special educational needs of children of transferable Central Government and Central Government undertaking employees.

Closure of Indian Airlines and Air India

[*Translation*]

723. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India are likely to be closed down due to their continued losses; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to minimise the losses suffered by these Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While Air India has not suffered any loss, Indian Airlines has incurred losses owing to problems basically regarding induction of A-320 fleet.

These problems have taken care of and additional measures are also being taken to improve productivity and efficiency of the Corporation. Indian Airlines is expected to turn the corners next year.

[*English*]

Direct Air Flight from Rajkot-Delhi and Back

724. SHRI CHANDRES PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of representations have been received in his Ministry for starting a direct flight on Delhi-Rajkot route;

(b) if so, when the said flight is going to commence; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to capacity constraints, there is no plan at present to operate a direct flight between Delhi and Rajkot.

Fire in Gir Forests

725. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire broke out in Gir forests recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the extent of loss suffered in terms of financial as well as the percentage of the jungle burnt; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such fires in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There was a fire in Gir forests in October, 1991.

(b) The fire was accidental in nature.

(c) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the *Table of the House*.

(d) The steps taken to prevent fire include